AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1   1. – 9.   (Cancelled)

1   10.   (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining secure network connections, the method

2   comprising:

3   duplicating, at a third network element, ~~information~~ a security association associated with

4   a secure network connection between a first network element and a second network element,

5   wherein a lookup of the security ~~associations~~ association associated with the secure network

6   connection is not dependent on any destination address; and

7   in response to detecting failure of the second network element, replacing the second

8   network element with the third network element in the secure network connection with the first

9   network element, wherein the secure network connection between the first network element and

10   the third network element is based on the duplicated security association.

1   11.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10 further comprising sending at

2   least one secure message from the third network element to the first network element to notify

3   the first network element that the secure network connection will be taken over by the third

4   network element.

1   12.   (Original) A method for maintaining secure network connections, the method

2   comprising:

3   configuring a plurality of security gateways such that a lookup of security associations is

4   not dependent on any destination address; and

5   sharing at least one security association among the plurality of security gateways.

1   13.   (Cancelled)

1   14.   (Previously Presented) The first security server according to claim 22, wherein a lookup

2   of security associations is not dependent on any destination address.

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1   15. – 16. (Cancelled)

1   17.   (Previously Presented) The first security server according to claim 22, wherein

2   communications between the mobile client and the first security server are based on a security

3   architecture for the internet protocol (IPsec).

1   18. – 19. (Cancelled)

1   20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2   during life of the secure network connection between the first and second network

3   elements, the third network element receiving information relating to ~~one or more~~ the security

4   ~~associations~~ association of the secure network connection from the second network element.

1   21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the first network element is a

2   mobile client, and the second and third network elements are security servers.

1   22.   (Previously Presented) A first security server comprising:

2   a transceiver to receive information relating to at least one security association of a secure

3   network connection between a mobile client and a second security server; and

4   a processor module to:

5   monitor operation of the second security server;

6   in response to detecting failure of the second security server, send a message to

7   the mobile client that the first security server is taking over the secure network connection; and

8   communicate with the mobile client using the at least one security association

9   over the secure network connection between the first security server and the mobile client.

1   23.   (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the first network element is a mobile client, and

2   the second and third network elements are security servers.

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1   24.   (New) The first security server of claim 22, wherein information relating to the at least

2   one security association is duplicated at the first and second security servers.

1   25.   (New) The method of claim 12, wherein sharing the at least one security association

2   comprises sharing an IPsec security association among the plurality of security gateways.

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